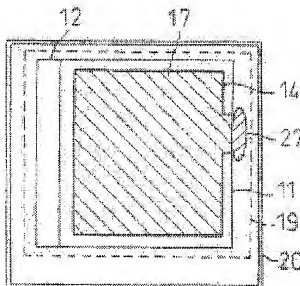


METHOD FOR MANUFACTURING LIQUID CRYSTAL DISPLAY DEVICE**Publication number:** JP2002040443 (A)**Publication date:** 2002-02-06**Inventor(s):** ABE HIROTSUGU**Applicant(s):** TOKYO SHIBAURA ELECTRIC CO; TOSHIBA ELECTRONIC ENG**Classification:****- International:** G02F1/1339; G09F9/00; G02F1/13; G09F9/00; (IPC1-7): G02F1/1339; G09F9/00**- European:****Application number:** JP20000224066 20000725**Priority number(s):** JP20000224066 20000725**Abstract of JP 2002040443 (A)**

PROBLEM TO BE SOLVED: To improve a display grade of a liquid crystal display device by making the sealing amount of liquid crystal easily controllable and making a cell gap uniform without the generation of air bubbles in a sealing process step of the liquid crystals by a dispenser type panel alignment filling method which shortens the time for manufacture. **SOLUTION:** While an aperture 18 is formed in a sealing material 14 to be applied to an array substrate 11, the liquid crystals 17 are dropped slightly more than the volume of the liquid crystal cell 21 to the array substrate. After the array substrate 11 and a counter substrate 12 are subjected to panel alignment, the excess liquid crystals 27 are discharged from the aperture 18 when the liquid crystals 17 are spread over the entire surface within a liquid crystal packing area [A] under the atmosphere pressure. The aperture 18 is thereafter end-sealed by an end-sealing material 22 and the liquid crystals 17 are uniformly sealed into the liquid crystal cell 21 by curing the sealing material 14 and the end-sealing material 22.

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CLAIMS

[Claim(s)]

[Claim 1] A manufacturing method of a liquid crystal display characterized by comprising the following.

A process of applying a sealing compound which has at least one opening to one of the substrates of a couple by which a placed opposite is carried out.

A process that a liquid crystal is dropped in a field which is one of the substrates of said couple and is surrounded by said sealing compound.

A process of sticking a substrate of said couple in said sealing compound under decompression after this end of the bottom process of a dropping liquid crystal.

A process of returning a substrate of said couple stuck in said sealing compound under atmospheric pressure, and a process of closing said opening with a sealing agent.

[Claim 2] A manufacturing method of the liquid crystal display according to claim 1 being in a state where said opening was closed by said liquid crystal at a process of returning a substrate of said couple under atmospheric pressure.

[Claim 3] A manufacturing method of the liquid crystal display according to claim 1 characterized by making a drip of said liquid crystal more than capacity of a field surrounded by said sealing compound between substrates of said couple at a bottom process of said dropping liquid crystal.

[Claim 4] A manufacturing method of the liquid crystal display according to claim 1 by which said liquid crystal being dropped at said opening in a field surrounded by said sealing compound at a bottom process of said dropping liquid crystal.

[Claim 5] A manufacturing method of the liquid crystal display according to claim 1 by which distributing and dropping said liquid crystal at two or more places in a field surrounded by said sealing compound at a bottom process of said dropping liquid crystal, and being dropped at said opening.

[Claim 6] A manufacturing method of the liquid crystal display according to claim 1, wherein said sealing compound is an ultraviolet curing type sealing compound.

[Claim 7] A manufacturing method of the liquid crystal display according to claim 1 forming a spacer in said opening.

[Claim 8] A manufacturing method of a liquid crystal display characterized by comprising the following.

A process of applying a sealing compound which has at least one opening to one of the substrates of a couple by which a placed opposite is carried out.

A process that a liquid crystal is dropped in a field which is one of the substrates of said couple and is surrounded by said sealing compound.

A process of sticking a substrate of said couple in said sealing compound under decompression after this end of the bottom process of a dropping liquid crystal.

A process of returning a substrate of said couple stuck in said sealing compound under atmospheric pressure, a process of pressurizing a substrate of said couple uniformly, and a process of closing said opening with a sealing agent.

[Translation done.]

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DETAILED DESCRIPTION**[Detailed Description of the Invention]****[0001]**

[Field of the Invention]This invention relates to the manufacturing method of the liquid crystal display which encloses a liquid crystal with the viewing area of a liquid crystal display.

[0002]

[Description of the Prior Art]If shown in the liquid crystal display which encloses a liquid crystal between the substrates of the couple which has an electrode, After pasting a substrate pair together by a sealing compound and assembling a liquid crystal cell as a method of enclosing a liquid crystal conventionally, The inside of a liquid crystal cell is decompressed, a liquid crystal is poured in from the inlet subsequently to a sealing compound formed in atmospheric pressure of the differential pressure and capillarity of a pressure and atmospheric pressure in a liquid crystal cell, and the injection method which closes an inlet after the completion of restoration of a liquid crystal and also with adhesives etc. is applied.

[0003]However, if it is in the above-mentioned injection method, after pasting a substrate together and forming a liquid crystal cell, in order to pour in a liquid crystal from a narrow inlet, restoration of the liquid crystal took the long time extremely, and it had a problem referred to as remarkably inferior to productivity. And for achievement of the wide viewing angle accompanying the tendency of big-screen-izing of a liquid crystal display in recent years, and high-definition-izing, The substrate area was made large, it was required that the gap between substrates should have been narrowed more, and also use of the liquid crystal of viscosity high for realization of high-speed-response-izing corresponding to an animation was required, and restoration of the liquid crystal display had taken still longer time by these factors.

[0004]Thus, if big-screen-izing, wide-field-of-view cornification, and high speed response-ization progress, the injection time of a liquid crystal will become long, and the processing time of an implantation process will be 3 or more times from twice compared with the conventional pouring process time. Actually, with a production line, in order to take into consideration balance with the processing time in other processes, increase of a manufacturing cost — extension of a pouring device is needed — will be caused.

[0005]For this reason, development of the dropping lamination injection method conventionally shown in drawing 11 has accomplished as a liquid crystal injection method independent of board size or the gap between substrates. That is, the seal pattern 2 is formed in one of the substrates 1 in a sealing compound, and after the liquid crystal 3 of the specified quantity is dropped at the field surrounded by the seal pattern 2 water drop-like, it pastes together via another substrate 4 and spacer under decompression so that air bubbles may not remain in a liquid crystal cell. The liquid crystal restoration area which is the inside of the seal pattern 2 by this, and the outside of the seal pattern 2 are divided spatially.

[0006]Next, the substrates 1 and 4 are pressurized by the inner surface from the outside by the differential pressure inside the seal pattern 2 by returning under atmospheric pressure. The seal pattern 2 which sticks the substrates 1 and 4 by this is crushed, and the liquid crystal 3 can extend all over the inside of liquid crystal restoration area. The seal pattern 2 is hardened after this and the restoration process of the liquid crystal by a dropping lamination injection method is

ended.

[0007]

[Problem(s) to be Solved by the Invention]While becoming easy to generate air bubbles if it is in said dropping lamination injection method, and there are few dropped amounts of liquid crystals than the capacity of a liquid crystal cell, If there are more dropped amounts of liquid crystals than the capacity of a liquid crystal cell, since the gap of a liquid crystal cell will produce the problem of becoming thick and reducing display quality remarkably, originally it is required as the capacity in a liquid crystal cell that the dropped amount of liquid crystals is the same.

[0008]However, the capacity of a liquid crystal cell changes with the paths or the height, and also densities of a spheric spacer or a columnar spacer which are sprinkled between two substrates, and the capacity of a liquid crystal cell changes also with the coverage and the coating position of a sealing compound. And since these factors have variation, respectively, the capacity in a liquid crystal cell will differ for every liquid crystal cell of each which was produced. Therefore, for each cell of every, it was almost next to impossible to have computed the optimal liquid crystal filling quantity for dropping liquid crystal Shitamae, and control of the amount of bottoms of a dropping liquid crystal was difficult for it, it produced variation about the gap of the completed liquid crystal cell, and had become the cause of reducing display quality.

[0009]At then, the time of liquid crystal enclosure by the dropping lamination injection method which this invention solves an aforementioned problem and aims at shortening of production time. According to the capacity of a liquid crystal cell, can control the amount of liquid crystals enclosed in a liquid crystal cell irrespective of dispersion in the capacity in a liquid crystal cell, and the variation in the gap of the liquid crystal cell after liquid crystal restoration is prevented. The uniform and good display quality by equalization of a gap is acquired, and reduction of the cost by a productivity drive is also aimed at providing the manufacturing method of a possible liquid crystal display.

[0010]

[Means for Solving the Problem]A process of applying a sealing compound which has at least one opening to one of the substrates of a couple by which a placed opposite is carried out as a means for this invention to solve an aforementioned problem. A process that a liquid crystal is dropped in a field which is one of the substrates of said couple and is surrounded by said sealing compound, A process of sticking a substrate of said couple in said sealing compound under decompression, a process of returning a substrate of said couple stuck in said sealing compound under atmospheric pressure, and a process of closing said opening with a sealing agent are carried out after this end of the bottom process of a dropping liquid crystal.

[0011]A process of applying a sealing compound which has at least one opening to one of the substrates of a couple by which a placed opposite is carried out as a means for this invention to solve an aforementioned problem. A process that a liquid crystal is dropped in a field which is one of the substrates of said couple and is surrounded by said sealing compound, A process of sticking a substrate of said couple in said sealing compound under decompression, a process of returning a substrate of said couple stuck in said sealing compound under atmospheric pressure, a process of pressurizing a substrate of said couple uniformly, and a process of closing said opening with a sealing agent are carried out after this end of the bottom process of a dropping liquid crystal.

[0012]By supposing easily that it is controllable so that filling quantity of a liquid crystal which encloses this invention in a liquid crystal cell irrespective of a drip of a liquid crystal by such composition may be made an equivalent amount with capacity of a liquid crystal cell, Equalization of a gap of a liquid crystal cell is raised, improvement in display quality is aimed at, enclosure of a liquid crystal in a dropping lamination injection method is made realizable, production time of a liquid crystal display of a big screen, a wide viewing angle, and a high speed response is shortened, and reduction of cost is aimed at by a productivity drive.

[0013]

[Embodiment of the Invention]Below, this invention is explained with reference to a 1st embodiment shown in drawing 1 thru/or drawing 8. 10 is a liquid crystal display element used for a liquid crystal display monitor and liquid crystal displays, such as television. The array substrate

11 which the liquid crystal display element 10 forms a thin film transistor and the orienting film 13 after picture element electrode formation on a glass substrate, and carries out orientation treatment further. The counter substrate 12 which forms the orienting film 13 after counterelectrode formation on a glass substrate, and carries out orientation treatment further. For example, the liquid crystal 17 is enclosed with the liquid crystal restoration area [A] which separates a predetermined gap with the spacer 16 and is surrounded by lamination and the sealing compound 14 by the sealing compound 14 which consists of ultraviolet curing type resin etc. 28a and 28b are polarizing plates.

[0014]Next, the manufacturing method of the liquid crystal display element 10 is described. After forming the array substrate 11 which has a picture element electrode first, and the counter substrate 12 which has a counterelectrode, the sealing compound 14 is applied so that liquid crystal restoration area (170 mm x 240 mm) [A] may be surrounded in one 11 of the substrates 11 and 12, for example, an array substrate, with a dispenser, as shown in drawing 3. The one opening 18 is formed in the pattern of the sealing compound 14 at this time.

[0015]To the another side counter substrate 12, the ϕ 5micrometer spacer 16 for holding the interval of the array substrate 11 and the counter substrate 12 to predetermined, fixed gap width is sprinkled.

[0016]Next, the liquid crystal 17 is dropped in the liquid crystal restoration area [A] surrounded by the sealing compound 14 of the array substrate 11. The drip of the liquid crystal 17 needed at this time will be theoretically set to 0.204 ml, if 5 micrometers and liquid crystal restoration area calculate as 170 mm x 240 mm, for example in a target cell gap. Then, as shown in drawing 4, distribute, drop the liquid crystal 17 at a time at nine points 0.025-ml (0.025mlx9) in the liquid crystal restoration area [A] of the array substrate 11, respectively, and, so that it may increase more than the theoretical amount of liquid crystals for a while actually further. One-point (0.01 ml) dropping of the 0.01-ml liquid crystal 17 is carried out at the opening 18, and a total of a 0.235-ml liquid crystal is dropped at the array substrate 11.

[0017]Subsequently, on the stage 19 in the vacuum chamber 20 which was exhausted with the vacuum pump and decompressed to 0.1 Pa as shown in drawing 5. In the liquid crystal restoration area [A] surrounded by the sealing compound 14, the array substrate 11 which trickles the liquid crystal 17, and the counter substrate 12 which sprinkles the spacer 16 are stuck, and the liquid crystal cell 21 is formed. This lamination can stick the sealing compound 14 to the counter substrate 12 by forcing on the counter substrate 12 from the bottom the lower stage (not shown) in which the array substrate 11 is laid.

[0018]Since 0.01 ml of liquid crystals 17 are dropped also at the opening 18 on the array substrate 11 at this time, the array substrate 11 and the counter substrate 12 are spatially isolated by the inside and the outside of the liquid crystal cell 21 with the sealing compound 14 and the liquid crystal 17 dropped at the opening.

[0019]Then, by returning the atmospheric pressure in the vacuum chamber 20 to atmospheric pressure, as shown in drawing 6. With the liquid crystal 17 dropped at the sealing compound 14 and the opening 18, by the differential pressure of the vacuum region of liquid crystal cell 21 inside, and the atmosphere region of the liquid crystal cell 21 exterior. The array substrate 11 and the counter substrate 12 are pressurized in the direction of an inner surface from the outside, and a sealing compound is crushed to target cell gap 5micrometer, and the liquid crystal 17 can extend the whole surface in liquid crystal restoration area [A], and it fills up with it in the liquid crystal cell 21. At this time, more surplus liquid crystals 27 of a part among the liquid crystals 17 dropped on the array substrate 11 than the capacity in the liquid crystal cell 21 are discharged from the opening 18 formed in the sealing compound 14.

[0020]After taking out the liquid crystal cell 21 from the vacuum chamber 20 after that and performing alignment of the array substrate 11 and the counter substrate 12 on the spreading stage 23, in order to close the opening 18 of the sealing compound 14, the sealing agent 22 which consists of ultraviolet curing type resin as shown in drawing 7 is applied to the opening 18.

[0021]Next, in order to perform hardening of the sealing compound 14 and the sealing agent 22, the liquid crystal cell 21 is moved to the UV irradiation stage 24. As shown in drawing 8, the

ultraviolet irradiation lamp 26 performs UV irradiation from the counter substrate 12 side for 60 seconds with the illumination of 0.1 J/cm^2 to the sealing compound 14 and the sealing agent 22, and the sealing compound 14 and the sealing agent 22 are hardened. The polarizing plates 28a and 28b are attached in the outside surface of the array substrate 11 and the counter substrate 12, and the liquid crystal display element 10 is completed. Bonding of the driver IC board for a drive which is not illustrated to the array substrate 11 of this liquid crystal display element 10 is carried out, a back light is arranged, and a liquid crystal display is completed.

[0022]At the time of liquid crystal enclosure by the dropping lamination injection method which aims at shortening of a liquid crystal enclosure process according to such a manufacturing method. Irrespective of the variation in the capacity of each liquid crystal cell 21, the filling quantity of the optimal liquid crystal for each liquid crystal cell is easily controllable by discharging the surplus liquid crystal 27 from the opening 18 among the liquid crystals 17 dropped on the array substrate 11. Therefore, dispersion in the gap of the liquid crystal cell 21 after liquid crystal enclosure and generating of air bubbles can be suppressed, equalization of the gap of the liquid crystal cell 21 can be attained, and the liquid crystal display which has uniform and good display quality can be obtained easily. And also in the liquid crystal display of a big screen, a wide viewing angle, and a high speed response, reduction of the cost by a productivity drive can be obtained by shortening of the processing time of the liquid crystal enclosure process by a dropping lamination injection method.

[0023]Next, this invention is explained with reference to a 2nd embodiment shown in [drawing 9](#). This 2nd embodiment pressurizes both the substrates 1 and 12 further in a 1st embodiment at the time of alignment of the array substrate 11 and the counter substrate 12, and since others are the same as that of a 1st embodiment, they attach identical codes about identical parts, and omit that explanation.

[0024]If it is in this embodiment, after being liquid crystal 17 filled up under the atmospheric pressure shown in [drawing 6](#) of a 1st embodiment and performing alignment of the array substrate 11 and the counter substrate 12, in order to improve the homogeneity of the gap of a liquid crystal cell more, a liquid crystal cell is pressurized further. That is, after the end of alignment of the array substrate 11 and the counter substrate 12, as shown in [drawing 9](#), the liquid crystal cell 21 is pinched between the lower pressurizing stage 31 and the upper pressurizing stage 32, and the both sides of the array substrate 11 and the counter substrate 12 are pressurized uniformly. The sealing compound 14 can be crushed more nearly uniformly especially by this, further equalization of an about 14-sealing compound cell gap can be attained, and better equalization of the gap of the liquid crystal restoration area [A] whole region can be obtained.

[0025]Like a 1st embodiment after this, the sealing agent 22 is applied to the opening 18, and also the sealing compound 14 and the sealing agent 22 are hardened with the ultraviolet irradiation lamp 26, the polarizing plates 28a and 28b are attached, and the liquid crystal display element 10 is completed.

[0026]According to such a manufacturing method, like a 1st embodiment by discharging the surplus liquid crystal 27 from the opening 18 irrespective of the variation in the capacity of each liquid crystal cell 21, The optimal liquid crystal filling quantity can be controlled easily, dispersion in the gap of the liquid crystal cell 21 and generating of air bubbles are suppressed, and equalization of the gap of the liquid crystal cell 21 can be attained. Better equalization of a gap can be attained over the liquid crystal cell 21 whole region by the application-of-pressure process after liquid crystal restoration, and the liquid crystal display which has more uniform and good display quality can be obtained. Also in the liquid crystal display of a big screen, a wide viewing angle, and a high speed response, reduction of the cost by a productivity drive can be obtained like a 1st embodiment by shortening of the processing time of the liquid crystal enclosure process by a dropping lamination injection method.

[0027]This invention is not restricted to the above-mentioned embodiment, change in the range which does not change the meaning is possible, for example, the opening of a sealing compound may be provided in two or more places if needed. When it was not limited, but the opening of a

sealing compound is closed with the dropped liquid crystal when sticking the substrate of a couple, and they return a liquid crystal cell into atmospheric pressure, they bear the atmospheric pressure power from the liquid crystal cell outside, and if isolation of the inside and outside of a liquid crystal cell is possible for the position and number of dripping points of liquid crystals, they are good.

[0028]The columnar spacer 38 is formed in the position equivalent to the opening 37 of the sealing compound 36 of the array substrate 34 like [the structure of the opening of a sealing compound is also arbitrary, for example,] other modifications shown in drawing 10, and it may be made to hold an about 37-opening cell gap to homogeneity more. To this opening 37, not a columnar spacer but a spheric spacer may be sprinkled.

[0029]The structure of a liquid crystal display element is also arbitrary, and a color filter layer may be formed in an array substrate or a counter substrate. As for this invention, it is arbitrary to apply to the many chamfering methods which form two or more liquid crystal display elements simultaneously from a mother glass board etc.

[0030]

[Effect of the Invention]According to this invention, as explained above, at the time of liquid crystal enclosure by the dropping lamination injection method which can shorten production time, can control easily the filling quantity for each liquid crystal cell of every, suppress dispersion in a gap, and generating of air bubbles, and by equalization of a gap. The liquid crystal display which has good display quality can be obtained easily. And also in the liquid crystal display of a big screen, a wide viewing angle, and a high speed response, shortening of the processing time of a liquid crystal enclosure process can be aimed at, and reduction of the cost by a productivity drive can be obtained.

[Translation done.]

【特許請求の範囲】

【請求項 1】 対向配置される一対の基板のどちらか一方に少なくとも 1 つの開口部を有するシール剤を塗布する工程と、

前記一対の基板のどちらか一方であって前記シール剤に囲まれる領域内に液晶を滴下する工程と、

この液晶滴下工程終了後、前記一対の基板を減圧下で前記シール剤にて貼り合わせる工程と、

前記シール剤にて貼り合わせた前記一対の基板を大気圧下に戻す工程と、

前記開口部を封止材にて封止する工程と、を具備する事の特徴とする液晶表示装置の製造方法。

【請求項 2】 前記一対の基板を大気圧下に戻す工程にて、前記開口部が前記液晶により塞がれた状態である事の特徴とする請求項 1 に記載の液晶表示装置の製造方法。

【請求項 3】 前記液晶滴下工程にて、前記液晶の滴下量を、前記一対の基板間の前記シール剤に囲まれる領域の容積より多くすることを特徴とする請求項 1 に記載の液晶表示装置の製造方法。

【請求項 4】 前記液晶滴下工程にて、前記液晶を、前記シール剤に囲まれる領域内と、前記開口部に滴下することを特徴とする請求項 1 に記載の液晶表示装置の製造方法。

【請求項 5】 前記液晶滴下工程にて、前記液晶を、前記シール剤に囲まれる領域内に複数ヶ所に分散して滴下すると共に前記開口部に滴下することを特徴とする請求項 1 に記載の液晶表示装置の製造方法。

【請求項 6】 前記シール剤が紫外線硬化型のシール剤である事の特徴とする請求項 1 に記載の液晶表示装置の製造方法。

【請求項 7】 前記開口部にスペースを設ける事の特徴とする請求項 1 に記載の液晶表示装置の製造方法。

【請求項 8】 対向配置される一対の基板のどちらか一方に少なくとも 1 つの開口部を有するシール剤を塗布する工程と、

前記一対の基板のどちらか一方であって前記シール剤に囲まれる領域内に液晶を滴下する工程と、

この液晶滴下工程終了後、前記一対の基板を減圧下で前記シール剤にて貼り合わせる工程と、

前記シール剤にて貼り合わせた前記一対の基板を大気圧下に戻す工程と、

前記一対の基板を均等に加圧する工程と、前記開口部を封止材にて封止する工程とを具備する事の特徴とする液晶表示装置の製造方法。

【発明の詳細な説明】

【0001】

【発明の属する技術分野】本発明は、液晶表示装置の表示領域に液晶を封入する液晶表示装置の製造方法に関する。

【0002】

【従来の技術】電極を有する一対の基板間に液晶を封入して成る液晶表示装置にあっては、従来液晶を封入する方法として、基板対をシール剤により貼り合わせ液晶セルを組み立てた後、液晶セル内を減圧し、次いで大気圧中で液晶セル内の圧力と大気圧との差圧と毛細管現象によりシール剤に形成される注入口から液晶を注入し、液晶の充填完了後、更に接着剤等で注入口を封止する注入法が運用されている。

【0003】しかしながら、上記注入法にあっては、基板を貼り合わせ液晶セルを形成した後に、狭い注入口から液晶を注入するため、液晶の充填に極めて長時間を要し、生産性に著しく劣ると言う問題を有していた。しかも近年の液晶表示装置の大型化かつ高画質化の傾向に伴う広視野角の達成のために、基板面積を広くすると共に基板間のギャップをより狭める事が要求され、更に動面対応の高遠応答化の実現のために高い粘度の液晶の使用が要求され、これらの要因により液晶表示装置の充填に一層長い時間を要していた。

【0004】このように大型化、広視野角化、高遠応答化が進むと液晶の充填時間が長くなり、注入工程の処理時間が従来の注入プロセス時間に比べ 2 倍から 3 倍以上になってしまふ。実際には製造ラインでは他の工程における処理時間とのバランスを考慮するため、注入装置の増設が必要になる等製造コストの増大を招いてしまふ。

【0005】このため、基板サイズや基板間のギャップに依存しない液晶注入方法として、従来図 11 に示す滴下貼り合わせ注入方法の開発が成されている。即ちいずれか一方の基板 1 にシール剤にてシールパターン 2 を形成し、シールパターン 2 に囲まれる領域に所定量の液晶 3 を水滴状に滴下した後、液晶セル内に気泡が残らないよう減圧下にてもう一方の基板 4 とスペースを介して貼り合わせる。これによりシールパターン 2 の内側である液晶充填エリアと、シールパターン 2 の外側とが空間的に分割される。

【0006】次に大気圧下に戻すことでシールパターン 2 の内側との差圧により基板 1、4 が外側から内面に加圧される。これにより基板 1、4 を貼り合わせるシールパターン 2 が潰れて液晶 3 が液晶充填エリア内全面に押し上げられる。この後シールパターン 2 を硬化し、滴下貼り合わせ注入方法による液晶の充填プロセスを終了する。

【0007】

【発明が解決しようとする課題】前記滴下貼り合わせ注入方法にあっては、滴下する液晶量が液晶セルの容積より少ないと気泡が発生しやすくなる一方、滴下する液晶量が液晶セルの容積より多いと液晶セルのギャップが厚くなり、表示品位を著しく低下させるという問題を生じてしまうことから、本来液晶セル内の容積と、滴下する液晶量が同じである事が要求される。

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【0008】しかしながら、液晶セルの容積は2枚の基板間に散布する球状スペーサや柱状スペーサの径あるいは高さ更には密度により変化し、また、シール剤の塗布量や塗布位置によっても液晶セルの容積は変わってくる。そしてこれらの要因はそれぞれバラツキを持っているため、作製された個々の液晶セル毎に液晶セル内の容積が異なってしまう。したがって個々のセル毎に、液晶滴下前に最適な液晶封入量を算出するのはほとんど不可能に近く、液晶滴下量の制御が難しく、完成された液晶セルのギャップにバラツキを生じ、表示品位を低下させる原因となっている。

【0009】そこで本発明は上記課題を解決するもので、製造時間の短縮を図る滴下貼り合わせ注入方法による液晶封入時に、液晶セル内の容積のばらつきにかかわらず、液晶セル内に封入する液晶量を液晶セルの容積に応じて制御出来、液晶充填後の液晶セルのギャップのバラツキを防止して、ギャップの均一化による均一で良好な表示品位を得ると共に、生産性向上によるコストの低減も可能な液晶表示装置の製造方法を提供することを目的とする。

【0010】

【課題を解決するための手段】本発明は上記課題を解決するための手段として、対向配置される一対の基板のどちらか一方に少なくとも1つの開口部を有するシール剤を塗布する工程と、前記一対の基板のどちらか一方であって前記シール剤に囲まれる領域内に液晶を滴下する工程と、この液晶滴下工程終了後、前記一対の基板を減圧下で前記シール剤にて貼り合わせる工程と、前記シール剤にて貼り合わせた前記一対の基板を大気圧下に戻す工程と、前記開口部を封止材にて封止する工程とを実施するものである。

【0011】又本発明は上記課題を解決するための手段として、対向配置される一対の基板のどちらか一方に少なくとも1つの開口部を有するシール剤を塗布する工程と、前記一対の基板のどちらか一方であって前記シール剤に囲まれる領域内に液晶を滴下する工程と、この液晶滴下工程終了後、前記一対の基板を減圧下で前記シール剤にて貼り合わせる工程と、前記シール剤にて貼り合わせた前記一対の基板を大気圧下に戻す工程と、前記一対の基板を均等に加圧する工程と、前記開口部を封止材にて封止する工程とを実施するものである。

【0012】このような構成により本発明は、液晶の滴下量にかかわらず、液晶セル内に封入する液晶の封入量を液晶セルの容積と同量とするよう容易に制御可能とすることにより、液晶セルのギャップの均一化を高め、表示品位の向上を図り、滴下貼り合わせ注入方法での液晶の封入を実現可能にし、大画面、広視野角、高速応答の液晶表示装置の製造時間を短縮し、生産性向上によりコストの低減を図るものである。

【0013】

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【発明の実施の形態】以下本発明を、図1乃至図8に示す第1の実施の形態を参照して説明する。10は液晶モニターや、テレビ等の液晶表示装置に用いる液晶表示素子である。液晶表示素子10は、ガラス基板上に薄層トランジスタ及び画素電極形成後段内膜13を形成し更に配向処理してなるアレイ基板11と、ガラス基板上に対向電極形成後段内膜13を形成し更に配向処理してなる対向基板12とを、例えば紫外線硬化型樹脂等からなるシール剤14にて、スペーサ16により所定のギャップを隔てて貼り合せ、シール剤14に囲繞される液晶充填エリア【A】に液晶17を封入して成っている。尚28a、28bは偏光板である。

【0014】次に液晶表示素子10の製造方法について述べる。先ず画素電極を有するアレイ基板11と対向電極を有する対向基板12を形成後、基板11、12のどちらか一方、例えばアレイ基板11に図3に示すようにディスプレイサにて、170mm×240mmの液晶充填エリア【A】を囲繞するようにシール剤14を塗布する。この時のシール剤14のパターンには開口部18を

一か所設ける。

【0015】他方対向基板12にはアレイ基板11及び対向基板12の間隔を所定の一定のギャップ幅に保持するための例えばφ5μmのスペーサ16を散布する。

【0016】次にアレイ基板11のシール剤14にて囲まれた液晶充填エリア【A】内に、液晶17を滴下する。この時必要とされる液晶17の滴下量は、例えば目標のセルギャップが5μm、液晶充填エリアが170mm×240mmとして計算すると理論上0.204mlとなる。そこで、実際には理論上の液晶量より少し多くなるよう、図4に示すようにアレイ基板11の液晶充填エリア【A】に液晶17をそれぞれ0.025mlづつ9点(0.025ml×9)に分散して滴下し更に、開口部18に0.01mlの液晶17を1点(0.01ml)滴下して、アレイ基板11に計0.235mlの液晶を滴下する。

【0017】次に図5に示す様に真空ポンプにて排気し0.1Paまで減圧した真空チャンバ20内のステージ19上で、シール剤14に囲繞される液晶充填エリア【A】内に液晶17を滴下してなるアレイ基板11と、スペーサ16を散布してなる対向基板12とを貼り合せて液晶セル21を形成する。この貼り合わせは、アレイ基板11が載置される下ステージ(図示せず)を下から対向基板12に押しつけることで、対向基板12にシール剤14を密着させることができる。

【0018】この時、アレイ基板11上に開口部18にも液晶17が0.01ml滴下されているので、アレイ基板11及び対向基板12はシール剤14と開口部に滴下された液晶17とによって、液晶セル21の内側と外側とに空間的に隔離される。

【0019】この後、図6に示す様に真空チャンバ20

内の気圧を大気圧に戻すことにより、シール剤14及び開口部18に滴下された液晶17より、液晶セル21内部の真空領域と液晶セル21外部の大気領域との差圧により、アレイ基板11及び対向基板12が外側から内方向に加圧されて目標とするセルギャップ5 μ mまでシール剤が流れ、液晶17が液晶充填エリア[A]内の全面に押し広げられ、液晶セル21内に充填される。この時、アレイ基板11上に滴下された液晶17のうち、液晶セル21内の容積より多い分の余剰液晶27は、シール剤14に形成された開口部18から排出される。

【0020】その後真空チャンバ20から液晶セル21を取り出し、塗布ステージ23上でアレイ基板11と対向基板12のアライメントを行った後に、シール剤14の開口部18の封止を行うため、図7に示すように紫外線硬化型樹脂からなる封止材22を開口部18に塗布する。

【0021】次にシール剤14及び封止材22の硬化を行うために、紫外線照射ステージ24に液晶セル21を移動して、図8に示すように紫外線照射ランプ26により対向基板12側からシール剤14及び封止材22に対して0.1J/cm²の照度で60秒間紫外線照射を行い、シール剤14及び封止材22を硬化する。更にアレイ基板11、対向基板12の外表面に偏光板28a、28bを取着して液晶表示素子10を完成する。この液晶表示素子10のアレイ基板11に図示しない駆動用ドライバーIC基板をボンディングし、バックライトを配置して液晶表示装置を完成する。

【0022】このような製造方法によれば、液晶封入プロセスの短縮を図る滴下貼り合わせ注入方法による液晶封入時、個々の液晶セル21の容積のパラツキにかかわらず、アレイ基板11上に滴下された液晶17のうち、余剰液晶27を開口部18から排出することにより、個々の液晶セル21に最適な液晶の封入量を容易に制御出来る。従って液晶封入後の液晶セル21のギャップのばらつきや気泡の発生を抑える事が出来、液晶セル21のギャップの均一化を図れ、均一で良好な表示品位を有する液晶表示装置を容易に得られる。しかも大画面、広視野角、高連応答の液晶表示装置においても、滴下貼り合わせ注入方法による液晶封入プロセスの処理時間の短縮により、生産性向上によるコストの低減を得られる。

【0023】次に本発明を、図9に示す第2の実施の形態を参照して説明する。この第2の実施の形態は、第1の実施の形態において、アレイ基板11と対向基板12のアライメント時、更に両基板11、12を加圧するものであり、他は第1の実施の形態と同一であることから同一部分については同一符号を付しその説明を省略する。

【0024】本実施の形態にあつては、第1の実施の形態の図6に示す大気圧での液晶17充填後、アレイ基板11と対向基板12のアライメントを行った後に、液

晶セルのギャップの均一性をより高める為に液晶セルを更に加圧するものである。即ち、アレイ基板11と対向基板12のアライメント終了後、図9に示すように下加圧ステージ31及び上加圧ステージ32間に液晶セル21を挟持し、アレイ基板11、対向基板12の両側を均等に加圧する。これにより特にシール剤14をより均等に潰す事が出来、シール剤14近傍のセルギャップの更なる均一化を図れ、液晶充填エリア[A]全域のギャップのより良好な均一化を得られる。

【0025】この後第1の実施の形態と同様、封止材22を開口部18に塗布し、更に紫外線照射ランプ26によりシール剤14及び封止材22を硬化し、偏光板28a、28bを取着して液晶表示素子10を完成する。

【0026】このような製造方法によれば、第1の実施の形態と同様、個々の液晶セル21の容積のパラツキにかかわらず、余剰液晶27を開口部18から排出することにより、最適な液晶封入量を容易に制御出来、液晶セル21のギャップのばらつきや気泡の発生を抑えて、液晶セル21のギャップの均一化を図れる。更に液晶充填後の加圧プロセスにより液晶セル21全域にわたるギャップのより良好な均一化を図れ、より均一で良好な表示品位を有する液晶表示装置を得られる。又第1の実施の形態と同様、大画面、広視野角、高連応答の液晶表示装置においても、滴下貼り合わせ注入方法による液晶封入プロセスの処理時間の短縮により、生産性向上によるコストの低減を得られる。

【0027】尚本発明は上記実施の形態に限られるものでなく、その趣旨を逸さない範囲での変更は可能であつて、例えばシール剤の開口部は、必要に応じて複数箇所に分けてもよい。又液晶の滴下点の位置や数は限定されず、一方の基板を貼り合せた際にシール剤の開口部を、滴下した液晶により封止され、且つ液晶セルを大気圧中に戻した際に、液晶セル外側からの大気圧に耐え、液晶セルの内外を隔離可能であればよい。

【0028】更にシール剤の開口部の構造も任意であり、例えば図10に示す他の変形例のように、アレイ基板34のシール剤36の開口部38に相当する位置に柱状スパーサ38を形成して、開口部37近傍のセルギャップをより均一に保持するようにしてもよい。尚この開口部37には柱状スパーサではなく、球状スパーサを散布してもよい。

【0029】又、液晶表示素子の構造も任意であり、アレイ基板あるいは対向基板にカラーフィルタ層を形成しても良い。又本発明は、マザーガラス基板から同時に複数の液晶表示素子を形成する多面取方法に適用する等も任意である。

【0030】

【発明の効果】以上説明したように本発明によれば、製造時間を短縮可能な滴下貼り合わせ注入方法による液晶封入時、個々の液晶セル毎の封入量を容易に制御出来、

ギャップのばらつきや気泡の発生を排え、ギャップの均一化により、良好な表示品位を有する液晶表示装置を容易に得られる。しかも大画面、広視野角、高速応答の液晶表示装置においても、液晶封入プロセスの処理時間の短縮を図れ、生産性向上によるコストの低減を得られる。

【図面の簡単な説明】

【図 1】本発明の第 1 の実施の形態の液晶の封入方法を示す分散概略説明図である。

【図 2】本発明の第 1 の実施の形態の液晶表示素子を示す概略説明図である。

【図 3】本発明の第 1 の実施の形態のアレイ基板にシール剤を塗布した状態を示す説明図である。

【図 4】本発明の第 1 の実施の形態のアレイ基板に液晶を滴下した状態を示す説明図である。

【図 5】本発明の第 1 の実施の形態のアレイ基板と対向基板を貼り合わせ後、真空チャンバを大気圧に戻す途中の状態を示す説明図である。

【図 6】本発明の第 1 の実施の形態の開口部から余剰液晶を排出する状態を示す説明図である。

【図 7】本発明の第 1 の実施の形態の開口部に封止材を塗布した状態を示す説明図である。

【図 8】本発明の第 1 の実施の形態のシール剤及び封止材の硬化を示す説明図である。

【図 9】本発明の第 2 の実施の形態の液晶セルの加圧時を示す説明図である。

【図 10】本発明の他の変形例の開口部の構造を示す概略断面図である。

【図 11】従来の滴下貼り合わせ注入方法による液晶の封入方法を示す分散概略説明図である。

【符号の説明】

10…液晶表示素子

11…アレイ基板

12…対向基板

13…配向膜

14…シール剤

16…スペーサ

17…液晶

18…開口部

19…ステージ

20…真空チャンバ

21…液晶セル

22…封止材

23…塗布ステージ

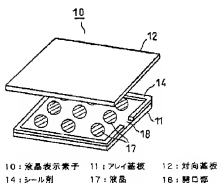
24…紫外線照射ステージ

26…紫外線照射ランプ

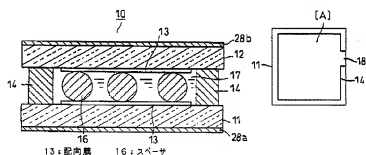
27…余剰液晶

28a、28b…偏光板

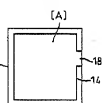
【図 1】



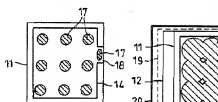
【図 2】



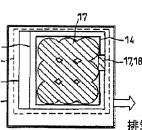
【図 3】



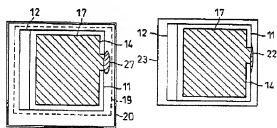
【図 4】



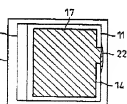
【図 5】



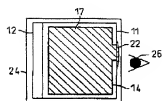
【図 6】



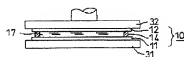
【図 7】



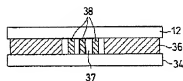
【図8】



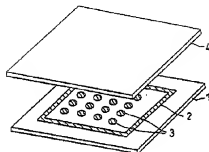
【図9】



【図10】



【図11】



フロントページの続き

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